

DISC Newsletter

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An Information Periodical For DISC Employees

GIS by Ivan Weichert

NOVEMBER was a busy but exciting time for GIS folks here in Kansas. GIS Professionals in all levels of government, education and private sector businesses participated in the many activities scheduled around Geography Awareness Week, November 13-19, and GIS Day, November 16th. Specifically here in Topeka, as part of our local initiatives, we were fortunate to have Former Governor of Wyoming, Jim Geringer lead a special presentation to Kansas government CIOs and selected guests at a Roundtable Breakfast Meeting at the Senate Suites Hotel near the Capitol on Wednesday November 16th. I was very pleased that many of the management staff from DISC were able to attend. Governor Geringer travels all over the world speaking to government and business leaders about the great successes and future potentials of bringing geospatial data to bear on business planning and decision making processes.

After the meetings on Wednesday, the Governor's focus shifted to Manhattan, where Kansas State University was celebrating the fifteenth year anniversary of establishing their Geographic Information Systems Spatial Analysis Laboratory in Seaton Hall. This was especially interesting to Gov. Geringer since he is a graduate of K-State and coincidentally had attended classes and was a friend of our former Governor, Mike Hayden, who was instrumental in establishing the Kansas GIS Policy Board in 1989. On Thursday November 17th, we participated in various meetings and the dedication of a new GIS Commons area to be established in Seaton Hall to provide a space and technology for all K-State students to interact with this fast moving technology.

Friday, November 18th, the KSU Geography Department graciously hosted the regular meeting of the Kansas GIS Policy Board, and presented on many of the outstanding initiatives and research projects that are centered on, or heavily rely on, geospatial technology. The Vice Chairperson and our own DISC Director, Denise Moore, led the meeting and can attest to their hospitality and appreciation for bringing this group to Manhattan. Following the Policy Board meeting, we were all invited to attend the Anniversary Luncheon in the beautiful Tadtman Board Room of the new KSU Alumni Center. A special presentation was made to retired Professor and former Policy Board Member, Sy Seiler, announcing the establishment of a new GeoSciences scholarship in his name. All in all, there was a lot of excitement on the K-State campus during our time there with all the GIS related activities. However, in almost every meeting, comments were made about the renaming of the K-State football stadium for retiring Coach Snyder and I suppose some of the excitement could have been in anticipation of their plans to put the 'whup' on the Missouri Tigers on Saturday.

GIS was again center stage upon returning to Topeka, where I and Ken Nelson, our Data Access and Support Center Manager, made a presentation to more than 100 County Commissioners and other elected officials from across Kansas at the Kansas Association of Counties annual conference Sunday at the Maner Conference Center. This was a kick-off for two special sessions of GIS software training provided through a grant from the National Association of Counties and the Environmental Systems Research Institute, ESRI, made available to county governments who have previously not utilized any GIS technology.



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DISC NEWSLETTER

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On Tuesday morning, Governor Kathleen Sebelius spoke at the KAC Unity Breakfast to commemorate the signing of the “Kansas Collaborative” agreement between State Government, the Kansas Association of Counties and the Kansas League of Municipalities, focusing on Community Capacity Building, Health Care Costs Reductions and of course... **Geographic Information Systems!**

GIS Day is a grassroots event that formalizes the practice of geographic information systems (GIS) users and vendors of opening their doors to schools, businesses, and the general public to showcase real-world applications of this important technology. GIS Day is part of the National Geographic Society's exciting new initiative, [Geography Action](#), which is a year-long initiative encompassing key educational achievements such as GIS Day and Geography Awareness Week. Each year this initiative will have a different focus. The theme for 2005-2006 is "Migration: The Human Journey." In addition to events such as GIS Day and Geography Awareness Week, there will also be many worldwide activities supporting geography action, with their goal being to engage people in learning and caring about geography. The National Geographic Society has sponsored Geography Awareness Week since 1987 to promote geographic literacy in schools, communities, and organizations, with a focus on the education of children. GIS Day is held on the Wednesday during Geography Awareness Week. GIS Day 2005 was held on Nov. 16, 2005. GIS Day 2006 will be held on Nov. 15, 2006.

Soldiers and civilians from the 320th Engineer Company (Topographic), 130th Engineer Brigade, Multi National Corps - Iraq and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency celebrated GIS Day 2005 at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq. [Read more.](#)





EMPLOYEE INFO

Happy December Birthdays to:



Craig Srna

Lowell Chellberg

Reggie Gatewood

Larry Burton

Clayton Kinnett

Sarah Gigous

Shelly Myers

Tony Appelhanz

Clyde Seel

Births



Javier Barajas'
Daughter
Rowan Morghan
Born 11/16/2005

Deaths

Tammy Roy's Grandmother

Randy Drum's Grandmother

***We Are So Sorry To Hear
About Your Grandmothers***



What a great looking group of people who attended the All DISC Meeting!



Denise started the meeting with a welcome and talked about the upcoming SHARP 8.9 upgrade, an Employee Recognition Program and a new Enterprise Support Team.



Dave Timpany talked about changes in BOT.



Joe Hennes spoke about Customer Communications and Customer Service.



Morey Sullivan discussed the Essential Employee Policy and Procedures, a Training Plan and Flexible Staffing.

KUDOS

BOCS/Small Agency Support

To: Kurt Dubach, John Jones, Jenny Warner, Ryan Rinehart, Michele DeMoss, Randy Burns and Kevin Greenfield

Although this is somewhat belated, we at BOTA want to sincerely thank DISC for the incredible support you provided during our computer switch last month. We could not have done it without you.

From: Rebecca Crotty, Board of Tax Appeals

BIS

To: Loren Westerdale, Eric Smith, Todd Fritz, Bill Berns, Jeff Muller

All the Sun10 databases have been migrated from the internal drive array to the Shark file system. The performance improvement is off the charts. Database resets & refreshes for the test team have gone from 45-60 minutes to about 5 minutes or less per database. The job that refreshes the ATP test databases on Friday evening was running over 24 hours. Now it's running in about 35 minutes. Thanks for your help.

From: Phil Collison, Dept. of Revenue

BOT

To: Craig Srna

Thank you very much for help with our circuit. I've never had an experience quite like this one and am looking forward to getting it behind us. Your assistance was pivotal.

From: Jim Bingham, K.U. Medical Center

BIS/BDAS

To: Joe Hennes, David Bloyd, Susan Howarter and Julie Niehues

I want to thank you and your staff for your efforts resolving the problems with the GHI file. KPERS has contingency plans in the event that this file is not available but thanks to you and your staff we were able to avoid exercising those plans. Thanks again! Always a pleasure doing business with you.

:From: John Oliver, KPERS

KITO

To: Mary Grace

Thank you very much for your assistance with our project. Mike has conveyed to me that you are very good to work with.

From: Jeff Lewis, Dept. of Labor

Central Mail

To: David Lord

On behalf of the United States Postal Service, I want to thank you for participating in the Executive Mail Center Manager (EMCM) course this past year. I appreciate the fact that you have the foresight to see the importance of partnering with the USPS to develop your skills.

From: Steven Pinkerton, Postmaster

BIS

To: Beth Zlotky and Kelly Ernst

The upgrade of DB2 production to version 8 is complete and all looks good. Thank you for taking time out of your Sunday to test.

From: Carol Baldry, KDOT

GIS

To: Ivan Weichert

I wanted to thank you for putting me in touch w/ Ivan Weichert. He has been wonderful to work with and has already had a geo-map developed for participating providers in a new program we're launching soon. He also has staff working on an interactive map we can put on our program website. I couldn't have asked for more responsiveness and creativity. We also talked about potential opportunities in the future with GIS. This has been another great experience for me working with DISC staff. Thanks again,

From: Karen Braman, Deputy Director, Division of Health and policy and Finance

Department of
Administration

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Communications (DISC)**

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Meeting Our Customer's Needs

KUDOS

BOT Installation Group

To: Andy Dworak

Wanted you to know that the network situation has been resolved, and in theory, this port should remain active long after we're all out at the state employee farm. A special thanks to your network guru Andy Dworak, a good representative for your outfit (even if he is a Nebraska Cornhusker)

From: Rick Bryant, KDHE

Security

To: Larry Kettlewell

Thanks for keeping us informed about Microsoft security. With your information and some research we do, I have provided the best possible information to my users and management.

From: Hank Sipple, KDA

BOT

To: Doug Walsh, Evan Desbien, Bryce Warner and Mark Peralta

I want to thank you for all you and your team did to make it possible for the State Library of Kansas to offer wireless Internet access! It works great and our patrons have been pleased and surprised when they find they can bring their laptops into the library to work. By the way, we are one of the first state libraries in the nation to provide wireless Internet access to patrons, and we owe that distinction to your hard work and great flexibility.

From: Christie Pearson Brandau, State Library of Kansas

Great Work Everyone !!

Happy Thanksgiving

